Alliance with UTI to set up ATMs

4550. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIR^DDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts has entered into an alliance with the UTI for setting up of ATMs across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Post Offices have been identified by the Department for setting up of ATMs; and

(d) if so, the details of Post Offices, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The Department of Posts have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with UTI Bank for cooperation in the field of financial services including setting up of ATMs. The proposal for installation of ATMs in Post Offices is at a conceptual stage as yet and no details in the matter have as yet been finalised.

Improvement in efficiency of postal system

4551. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the major initiatives Government propose to take during the Tenth Five Year Plan period so as to improve the efficiency of the postal system.

(b) whether there are any schemes that are going to be the extensions of the initiatives during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The new initiatives proposed for improving the postal system during the 10th Five Year Plan are as follows:

(i) Electronic Fund Transfer

(ii) Introduction of Smart Cards

(iii) Currency exchange facility through Postal Counters

(iv) Cash management services like payment of warrants and dividends

(v) Commercial exploitation of estates with a view to earning more revenues

(vi) Introduction of the concept of distance learning for training of postmen and imparting training on software applications at the workplace

(vii) Setting up of National Data Centre.

(b) and (c) The following core activities which were undertaken during the 9th Five Year Plan are proposed to be carried forward:

(i) Computerisation of basic postal functions and connectivity

(ii) Business Development activities for diversification of products

(iii) Human Resources Development through training

(iv) Improving ergonomics of operative offices

(v) Mechanisation of mail movement

(vi) Extending scope for agency functions through post offices.

IT education in the country

4552. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign institutions are providing information technology education in the country;